

true blue

Newsletter of the Friends of St George's



Sport for Health inspired by London Olympic dinner

WINDREF (Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation), the research institute at St George's University, will be launching a campaign for the Grenada Olympic team taking part in the London Olympics in 2012 as well as a special programme - "Sport for Health in the Caribbean" - which will "inspire a new healthier generation of Caribbean youth". The campaign has been endorsed by Grenada's National Olympic Committee and the Government of Grenada, Ministry of Sports.

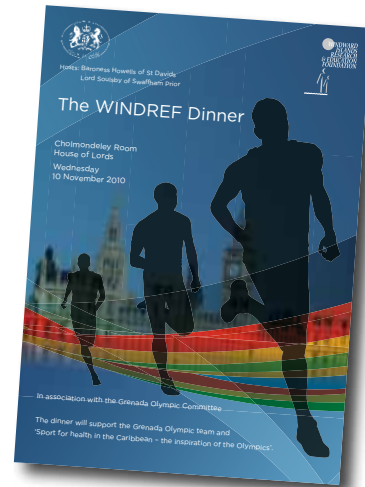
A dinner at London's historic House of Lords, co-hosted by Grenadian peer, Baroness Howells of St Davids and WINDREF's President, Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, is being held in November to raise funds for the campaign. Lord (Seb) Coe, Chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and former double Olympic gold medallist, is speaking on "sport for

health in the Caribbean: the inspiration of the Olympics".

Also speaking is Alan Fenwick, Professor of Tropical Parasitology at Imperial College, London, who will describe the threat posed to the health of the region by Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). WINDREF is undertaking important research work in this field.

Attendees at the dinner include Grenada's Minister

of Tourism Glynis Roberts, Minister of Health Senator Ann Peters, Grenada Olympic Committee President Royston LaHee, and Grenada's High Commissioner to the UK, Ruth Elizabeth Rouse. Tables have been sponsored by, amongst others, REACH Grenada, the Jason Roberts Foundation, Lord Ballyedmond, Northumbria, Sunderland and St George's University. Charles Modica, Chancellor of St George's, will



be flying over for the occasion.

Sport for health will make its debut in Grenada: it is intended that the message will spread to the rest of the Caribbean addressing the growing burden of childhood obesity and the chronic non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, and promote a healthier philosophy amongst the youth. As a first step, Grenada's Olympic athletes are being asked to become sporting ambassadors at sports days to be held in all Grenada's secondary schools in the coming year.

RCVS welcomes eight new members from St. George's University

Eight graduates from St George's University School of Veterinary Medicine (SGUSVM) in the Caribbean island of Grenada, have passed the Statutory Membership Examination of the UK's Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), making up just under half of the 17 accepted this year. Forty-five candidates took the examination.

"This outstanding result confirms the school's status as a leading international teaching institution for prospective veterinarians", commented Austin Kirwan, St George's Associate Dean of UK and Ireland Clinical Affairs. "Our graduates now have a proven record of high standards which is encouraging to those who follow in their footsteps".

Thirty St George's graduates have passed into the RCVS since the School's inception in 1999.

In order to practice veterinary surgery in the UK, all graduates with foreign or Commonwealth qualifications must pass the RCVS examination. The exam consists of two days of written papers, followed by clinical, oral and practical exams at a UK veterinary medical school.

Presenting the graduates with a membership certificate at the Ceremony of Admissions at Belgravia House in London, RCVS President Peter Jinman said: "I was delighted to welcome so many of this year's successful candidates to the College. They are a very special group of people - not only have they qualified all around the world, but they have taken the educational and professional step of sitting the RCVS examination, which entitles them to use the coveted letters MRCVS and to practice in the UK".



Students from St George's University, Grenada, attend a ceremony at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London, and are admitted to the college. L-R: Amber Lovegrove, Claire Green, college president Peter Jinman, SGU UK representative Austin Kirwan, Jennifer Walton. Front: Rhiannon Jones, Serena Holmes, Zoë Jack. Photograph © Andrew McCargow

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Editorial

As the number of graduates with Doctor of Medicine degrees from St George's University School of Medicine approaches the ten thousand mark - graduates who are now practising medicine in over 45 countries worldwide, and many of whom are from the Commonwealth - we are noting a significant expansion of students seeking to undertake their clinical training in UK.

Increased student numbers are supported by the award of a Grade A Tier 4 Sponsor Licence by the UK Border Agency in August last year - a result of the new visa requirements previously introduced - and may lead to expansion of the the number of UK hospitals involved in the programme, as well as placements in existing hospitals.

With around 120 St George's medical students, many drawn from Commonwealth countries, currently in the country as well as a large intake expected in October, the future for the UK Clinical Faculty is both challenging and exciting.

Rodney J Croft MA MChir FRCS FACS
Dean of Clinical Studies UK

Friends of St George's

Dr Peter Bourne • Mrs Vanessa Bourne • Sir Kenneth Calman • Mr Rodney Croft • Mr David Jessop OBE
Baroness Hanham CBE • Baroness Howells of St Davids OBE • Sir Jim Lester DL • Professor Sir Malcolm Macnaughton
Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior • Sir Kenneth Stuart • Mr Jonathan Taylor • Lord Walton of Detchant
Mr Bowen Wells • Professor Ian McConnell • Lord Sheikh of Cornhill in the City of London



The new students give their professional commitment at the ceremony.

"Medicine is like climbing a mountain and never quite reaching the summit. But when you finally get there, the vista is truly amazing."

Jane Macnaughton, co-director of Durham University's Centre for Medical Humanities (and daughter of eminent Friend of St George's, Sir Malcolm Macnaughton), giving the keynote address at the White Coat Ceremony last August when a record number of students – 180 – joined the Keith B. Taylor Global Scholars Programme at Northumbria University.

St George's University students take their first year basic sciences with this programme at Northumbria before moving to Grenada to complete their pre-clinical training.

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the leading authority on accreditation for graduate public health programmes in the USA, announced earlier this year its accreditation of the Public Health programme at St. George's University, Grenada, West Indies, making the University only the fourth non-US institution to be approved.

The Council on Education for Public Health is an independent agency recognised by the US Department of Education to accredit public health schools and programmes. It promotes quality in public health education, evaluates the institutions offering such programmes, and encourages improvements in education for the profession through periodic review, consultation, research, and publications.

School of Medicine Holds 43rd Commencement Ceremony

In June, 698 students representing 58 countries graduated from St. George's University School of Medicine at its 43rd annual Commencement Ceremony held at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Centre, New York. This year's graduating class marked the 8,925th Doctor of Medicine degree conferred by the University.

Dr. Charles Modica, Chancellor of St. George's University, acknowledged the importance the graduates had placed on their degree: "I recognise the love and care and devotion a physician has, and look towards you as having those same qualities", he said at the ceremony.



Chancellor Charles R. Modica (left) and Dr. Raymond Sis, Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, award her degree to Dr. Mairin Miller.

"I looked it up on a globe and couldn't find it"

Carol Munyame says of Grenada, when her father suggested she apply to study medicine at St. George's. Then she found it, just. *"I said to him: 'but you're sending me to the middle of the ocean!'"*



It was to be another episode in a decidedly cosmopolitan upbringing.

Born in Edinburgh, where her Zimbabwean parents both studied civil engineering, she moved to Mutare, back to her family homeland, when she was six years old. *"They missed home, to be honest", she says, "and so I spent most of my formative years in Zimbabwe."*

"Medicine was always one of the options," she explains, "I was interested in medicine and engineering, and my family is already full of engineers, so I decided to take the other road."

Despite their family ties to the UK, Carol's father encouraged her to look beyond. *"He searched around the internet for medical schools around the world and was drawn to St George's. My dad just thought: 'Carol, why go live in the UK when you could live in Grenada?' And so I applied. It became more real and exciting when I was offered a place. As it turns out, that's where I was meant to go."*

"I dragged my family with me for that first week. I said to them: 'If I'm going somewhere that's not on the map you're going with me!'"

They flew from Harare to Miami, and from Miami to Barbados, and finally, from Barbados to Grenada. Carol was immediately taken with St. George's, from the campus by the sea to the student body. *"I guess I was surprised to meet quite a few other students from Africa: Botswana, Namibia, Tanzania, Nigeria... And one of the great things about St. George's is just how multicultural it is."*

Her study years, she says, went by in a flash. *"For my last summer holiday I decided not to go home. I wanted to get as much time there as I could. I knew I was about to set out on a career in the UK – who knows when I'd find a chance to come back?"*

St. George's, she says, prepared her *"seamlessly"* for the NHS and for her chosen specialism. After graduating from St. George's in May 2004, Carol and her best friend both went to Bury St Edmunds and Cambridge to complete their NHS Foundation Programme. Her friend picked the GP route and Carol went into gynaecology and obstetrics.

She is now entering her fourth year of a seven-year obstetrics and gynaecology training programme at the Wessex Deanery, which has included training in Southampton General Hospital, Poole Hospital and Salisbury Hospital.

And there is more: next year, Carol is getting married. Her fiancé is a Frenchman, and they are planning double ceremonies in the Basque country and Zimbabwe.

She'd consider settling in Zimbabwe herself some day. *"Perhaps in a couple of years, when I'm more established and have my own consultancy. It would be a brilliant thing to try and do".*

New Friend

St George's University has a new Friend in Lord Sheikh, who has had a long and distinguished career in the UK's insurance industry. He was raised to the peerage as Baron Sheikh of Cornhill in the City of London in 2006. He is currently chairman of the Conservative Muslim Forum and of the Ethnic Diversity Council. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1995. Lord Sheikh is a generous contributor to Grenadian charities.

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